

Serial No. 09/629,320
Amdt. dated October 4, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 9, 2004

Attorney Docket No. PF02024NA

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3 through 10 and 12 through 36 remain in this application. New claims 31 through 36 have been added, and claims 1, 10, and 20 have been amended.

Claims 12 and 13 are objected to for depending from a supposedly canceled claim (i.e., claim 11). Claims 12 and 13 were amended to depend from independent claim 10 by Applicants' Amendment of April 19, 2004. As indicated at the top of page 2 of the above Office Action, this Amendment has been entered by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 12 and 13 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 through 10, 12, 14, 16 through 21, 23, 24, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,484,027 to Mauney, et al. ("Mauney, et al. patent"). Claims 28 through 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Mauney, et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,381,465 to Chern, et al. ("Chern, et al. patent"). Claims 4, 13 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Mauney, et al. patent in view of the Chern, et al. patent and U.S. Patent No. 5,479,408 to Will ("Will patent"). Claims 7, 15, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Mauney, et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,412, 654 to Perkins ("Perkins patent").

Claim 1 as amended provides, *inter alia*, a processor that identifies members within a certain proximity, and a user output device for outputting an identity and employment

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information regarding the members identified to be within the certain proximity. Similarly, claims 10 and 20 provide, *inter alia*, similar language. Support for the above recitation is provided at FIG. 4 of the drawings and page 4, line 34, through page 5, line 10, of the specification.

In contrast, none of the cited references above describe or suggest identifying members within a certain proximity and outputting the identity and employment information regarding the members identified to be within the certain proximity, as required by amended claims 1, 10 and 20. Therefore, amended claims 1, 10 and 20 distinguish patentably from the Mauney, et al. patent, the Chern, et al. patent, the Will patent, the Perkins patent, and any combination of these references.

Claims 2 through 9, 11 through 19, and 21 through 27 depend from and include all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 10 and 20 as amended. Therefore, claims 2 through 9, 11 through 19, and 21 through 27 distinguish patentably from the Mauney, et al. patent, the Chern, et al. patent, the Will patent, the Perkins patent, and any combination of these references for the reasons stated above for amended claims 1, 10 and 20.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 3 through 10 and 12 through 30 are respectfully requested.

New claims 31 through 36 have been added to cover particular aspects of Applicants' device, method and system. In particular, claims 31, 33 and 35 provide that the employment information includes an entity name and/or a job title of the person associated with each of the

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plurality of members. Also, claims 32, 34 and 36 provide that the outputted/accessed information includes scheduled meeting information and/or assignment information associated with at least two members of the plurality of members. Support for these added recitations is provided at FIG. 4 of the drawings and page 5, lines 3 through 8, of the specification. Accordingly, allowance of claims 31 through 36 is believed warranted.

CONCLUSION

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees arising as a result of this response, including any fees for Extensions of Time, or any other communication from or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

It is submitted that the claims clearly define the invention, are supported by the specification and drawings, and are in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner have any

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questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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